

WHAT'S *New*

in the Metropolitan Police Department



*A weekly update for residents, visitors,
and workers in the District of Columbia*

Friday, July 22, 2005

DC TO SHOWCASE POLICE-COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS DURING NATIONAL NIGHT OUT 2005

Police-community partnerships will be in the spotlight on Tuesday evening, August 2, as residents from across the District of Columbia join with their neighbors, police officers and other public officials in celebrating the 22nd annual National Night Out against crime. Police and residents in all seven police districts will be holding block parties, neighborhood walks, open houses, softball games and other crime prevention events designed to show their solidarity against crime and their commitment to safer neighborhoods. DC's citywide celebration of National Night Out will begin at 5 pm, with a kickoff ceremony and community crime prevention festival at Simon Elementary School/Oxon Run Park, Mississippi Avenue and 4th Street, SE. The kickoff event will be followed by dozens of neighborhood crime prevention events spanning all seven police districts. Individuals who are unable to participate in organized National Night Out activities are still encouraged to turn on their exterior lights and spend some time outside on the evening of August 2, as a show of solidarity against crime and for neighborhood safety. Sponsored by the National Association of Town Watch, National Night Out each year brings together millions of people as part of "America's Night Out Against Crime." In 2004, approximately 34 million people in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, US territories, Canadian cities, and military bases worldwide participated in National Night Out. DC earned a "Top 10" award among large cities for its celebration of National Night Out 2004.

① For information about activities in their neighborhood, residents may call (202) 727-1000 or go to:

http://mpdc.dc.gov/mpdc/cwp/view,a,1242,q,547053,mpdcnav_gid,1541.asp

① For its 2005 awards submission, the MPDC is looking for photos, programs and other information from various National Night Out celebrations. Please forward any materials to Kevin Palmer in the MPDC's Office of Corporate Communications to kevin.palmer@dc.gov.

WAVE III OF SMOOTH OPERATOR CAMPAIGN SET TO BEGIN

For nearly 10 years, DC, Maryland and Virginia have worked together to combat aggressive driving through the Smooth Operator Program — a public safety initiative that aims to provide education, information and solutions for the problem of aggressive driving. Under Smooth Operator, law enforcement agencies, trauma experts, government officials and other professionals partner to educate motorists of the risks involved with aggressive driving, and to stigmatize aggressive driving behavior on our roads through aggressive enforcement. For 2005, dozens of law enforcement agencies from the District, Maryland and Virginia are once again cooperating in intensive, one- to two-week aggressive driving enforcement "waves" — one each month from May through early September. These special enforcement waves are in addition to their everyday traffic safety efforts. Wave III of the 2005 Smooth Operator campaign takes place from July 24-30. During this period, police officers in the MPDC and throughout the region will be paying special attention to aggressive driving offenses such as tailgating, unsafe lane changes, speeding, running red lights and stop signs, following too closely, improper passing and failing to yield the right of way. During the first two waves of Smooth Operator 2005, the MPDC issued close to 32,000 citations.

① For details on Smooth Operator in DC, go to:

http://mpdc.dc.gov/mpdc/cwp/view,a,1240,Q,547928,mpdcNav_GID,1552,mpdcNav,1..asp

① Learn more about the regional Smooth Operator program at:

www.smoothoperatorprogram.com

DC JOINS NATIONAL SEX OFFENDER REGISTRY

DC this week became one of 22 jurisdictions to be integrated into the first National Sex Offender Public Registry (NSOPR) website, a US Justice Department initiative that allows parents and concerned residents to access existing sex offender registries beyond their own jurisdictions through a single Internet search. US Attorney General Alberto R. Gonzales announced the design and delivery of a national registry website in May, and invited all states and territories to link their public registries to the site at no cost. For the past several years, the MPDC and the Court Services and Offender Supervision Agency (CSOSA) have worked jointly to implement DC's Sex Offender Registration Act, informing the public about sex offenders in the community and how to protect themselves. As of July 7, the District's Sex Offender Registry included 633 offenders who live, work or attend school in DC. Of the 633 registered offenders, approximately 595 Class A and Class B offenders will initially be posted on the NSOPR website. Information about Class C offenders is available at any police station. According to the Justice Department, there are more than half a million registered sex offenders nationwide, and statistics have shown the recidivism rate for these offenders is high. The NSOPR uses the Internet to search for and display public sex offender data from state and territory registries using a common computer language recognized by different hardware and software systems.

CHIEF RAMSEY SWEARS IN 30 NEW MPDC OFFICERS, NOW HEADED FOR PSA NEIGHBORHOOD PATROLS

Police patrols in DC neighborhoods are receiving a boost with the addition of 30 new officers who were sworn in by Chief Ramsey during graduation ceremonies Friday afternoon. The new officers –members of Recruit Class 2004-9 – have successfully completed approximately 24 weeks of training at the Maurice T. Turner Jr., Institute of Police Science, the MPDC's training academy. All of the new officers are being assigned to neighborhood patrol duties in the Police Service Areas (PSAs). The new officers are part of the Police Department's continuing efforts to maintain its sworn force at or near its fully authorized level of 3,800. While emphasizing that the new officers will frequently work in teams under the MPDC's community policing philosophy, Chief Ramsey also told the graduates to never underestimate the difference that each of them can now make as an individual. "Never underestimate the difference you can make in the life of a child – a young person who may be seeking a role model, someone to look up to in his or her community," Ramsey said.

NEWS & NOTES

Metro Security Increased. With the help of the MPDC and other law enforcement agencies, Metro this week increased the number of uniformed police officers in the Metrorail and Metrobus system. Metro's heightened security level, which has been in place since the July 7 attacks in the London Underground and bus, continued this week after a second attack on the London Underground and its passengers. Read the news release and get information on emergency preparedness in the Metro system at http://www.wmata.com/about/met_news/story.cfm?ID=364.

Town Hall Meeting on DC Gun Laws. Chief Ramsey and Mayor Williams will join Congresswoman Eleanor Holmes Norton on Tuesday, July 26, at 6:30 pm, at Shaw Junior High School in Northwest, for a town hall meeting on DC gun laws. The meeting is in response to recent Congressional actions that would weaken existing gun laws in the District. Details at <http://www.norton.house.gov>.

Talk with Chief Ramsey on July 27. Chief Ramsey discusses public safety issues and takes phones calls during his monthly segment on "Live at Five" on WOL-1450 AM, from 5-6 pm on Wednesday, July 27.

- ① Read the news release at:
<http://app.mpdcc.gov/newsroom/newsroom.asp?sid=74000>
- ① Access DC's Sex Offender Registry at:
http://mpdc.dc.gov/mpdc/cwp/view,a,1241,q,540704,mpdcNav_GID,1523,mpdcNav,1.asp
- ① The national registry, which includes Maryland and Virginia, is available at:
www.nsopr.gov

- ① For information on career opportunities in the MPDC – both sworn and civilian – visit:
http://mpdc.dc.gov/mpdc/cwp/view,a,1230,q,537771,mpdcNav_GID,1523,mpdcNav,131417,1.asp

DATA BOX

Homicides	as of 7/22/05
◆ 2005: 99	
◆ 2004: 106	
◆ % Change: -6.6%	
◆ Closure Rate: 52.59% (52 closures)	
Adult Arrests	week end. 7/16/05
◆ Total: 750	
◆ Drugs: 108	
◆ Weapons: 26	
◆ Motor Vehicle Theft: 9	
◆ Prostitution/Sex Offenses: 23	
Juvenile Activity	week end. 7/16/05
◆ Arrests: 51	
◆ Curfew Violations: 64	
◆ Truants: 0	
Firearm Recoveries	as of 7/20/05
◆ July: 110	
◆ 2005 Total: 1,341	
Traffic Fatalities	as of 7/22/05
◆ 2005: 23	
◆ 2004: 31	
◆ % Change: --25.8%	

Information, ideas, or comments about this service? Send an e-mail to **KEVIN MORISON**, MPDC's Director of Corporate Communications, at kevin.morison@dc.gov. Would you like to have this information e-mailed to you? Just go to our Website and register with **Crimereports.com**.

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